

**Northleach
Rural District Council**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

REGINALD GREEN, M.D., D.Hy., D.P.H.

1941

NORTHLEACH RURAL DISTRICT

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GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	74,952
Population (Census 1931)	7,658
and estimated 1941	8,511
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)				2,061
(end of 1941)				2,130
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£29,852
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£114/13/6

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	M.	F.	Total
LIVE BIRTHS (total)	60	60	120
Legitimate	59	58	117
Illegitimate	1	2	3
Birth Rate (R.G.)	14.1		
STILL BIRTHS	...	...	...
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Rate per 1000 population,	0.7		

DEATHS	...	47	42	89
Death Rate (R.G.)	10.4 per 1000			

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth...	from sepsis	Nil
	from other causes	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age : 4
 „ per 1000 births :

Males, 34 ; Females, 34. Total 33.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ Whooping Cough	...	...	Nil
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			Nil
„ Cancer	...	...	12

BIRTHS

There were 97 births registered in the rural area, and of these 54 were males and 43 females. This number includes two births of illegitimate children. The total births as provided by the Registrar General were 120, of which 60 were males and 60 females. In 1940 there were 126 births, with 8 infants not born in wedlock. The annual birth rate was 14.1 per 1000 of population, compared with 16.0 in 1941, and a rate of 14.2 for England and Wales. The decline in the general birth rate is no doubt connected with the absence of men on war duty. This was found also in the last war. The average birth rate for the last six years was 14.6 per 1000. The quarterly births varied from 17 in the first to 33 in the second quarter. Six still births, all legitimate, were registered, equal to 0.7 per 1000 of population, the rate in 1940 being 0.5 of the whole, and in England and Wales 0.51.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1941.

(REG. GENERAL)

DISEASE				Males	Females
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	1	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	1
Influenza	...	...	...	2	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis			...	1	2
Maternal Causes	...	...	...	—	—
Cancer	...	...	...	6	6
Diabetes	...	...	...	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	4	4
Heart Disease	...	...	...	9	11
Other Circulatory Diseases			...	2	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	4	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	1
Other Respiratory Diseases			...	—	—
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	2	—
Digestive Diseases			...	3	2
Appendicitis	...	...	...	1	—
Nephritis	...	...	...	3	2
Congenital Causes, etc.	...	...	...	1	3
Senility	...	...	...	—	—
Suicide	...	...	...	—	—
Other Violence	...	...	...	1	1
Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	3	2
All causes	...	...	...	47	42

DEATHS

The deaths certified were 92, of which 49 were males and 43 females. The number returned by the Registrar General was 89. The general death rate was only 10.4 per 1000, compared with 13.5 in 1940, and a rate of 12.9 in England and Wales. The standard death rate, allowing for the population being older than the average, cannot be given this year as no figures are provided for it. Deaths occurred in every parish except two, there being 4 parishes with one death each. In Northleach there were 14 deaths, 12 in Chedworth, 9 in Bibury, and 6 in Barrington. The death averaged for the past 6 years ending 1940, was 12.4 per 1000, the rate being 13 for the last three years.

As to deaths at age periods, 4 deaths took place at ages 0-1, 2 at 1-5 years, 4 at 5-15 years, 4 at 15-25 years, 5 at 25-45 years, 18 at 45-65 years, and 55 at ages over 65 years. Considerably more than half of the deaths occurred at ages of 65 upwards.

CAUSES OF DEATH.—One death was caused by cerebro-spinal fever, a young child under 2 years. 3 deaths were due to influenza, as last year. Lung tuberculosis caused 3 deaths, compared with 2 in 1940. There were 12 deaths from cancer, 6 males and 6 females. All were at ages over 45 years, 8 at 65 years, upwards. Diabetes caused 2 deaths, there being none in 1940. Heart diseases 20 deaths, all at ages over 65, except 1, a man aged less than 45 years. Diseases of circulation certified in 4 instances. Eight deaths were due to bronchitis. Only 3 deaths from pneumonia, there being 5 in 1940. One death from appendicitis. Nephritis was the cause of 5 deaths, 2 in 1940. There were 9 deaths from congenital debility. Nine deaths from various other diseases. Two deaths due to injury, but no suicide deaths. During the last 6 years the average number of deaths from Cancer was 14,

Influenza 1, Tuberculosis 3, Pneumonia 4. There were 44 deaths of non-residents in the district, mostly from the infirmary, but only 24 residents died outside the area.

INFANT MORTALITY

At ages under 1 year only 4 deaths occurred, all legitimate, 2 males and 2 females. The infant death rate was 33 per 1000 live births, the rate in 1940 was 71, and the six years average 39. The rate in England and Wales was 59 per 1000 live births. No deaths occurred of illegitimate infants. One infant died from congenital weakness at the age of 2 days, one from difficult labour aged 1 week, one from abscess of liver at 3 weeks, and the fourth at 7 months from influenza. The infant death rate has been favourable for a number of years, the highest rate being 71 in 1940. Nowadays with child welfare centres in most places, and the advice of district nurses to every mother who wishes for it, one expects a steady fall to the death rate of infants, more especially when the survival of the younger population is so very important. The recent improvement in the loaf should help the health of the children of the country. Knowledge of dietetic values is increasing among the people and this is most important.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE		Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	9	4	—
Diphtheria	...	11	10	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	1	1	—
Whooping Cough	...	96	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	2	—	—
Pneumonia	...	6	—	—

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Other diseases generally notifiable—Erysipelas	4	—	—
Other diseases notifiable :			
Measles ...	59	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	4	—	—
Tuberculosis ...	2	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever was more prevalent than in 1940, but only 9 cases were reported, all being under the age of 16 years. Five cases came from Andoversford, including two children of a schoolmaster, one of whom was taken ill whilst on holiday and was brought home in a car. Nine cases of diphtheria occurred, including four adults. Two of these patients occurred in the same village, one a school boarder at a large house, the other a boy who had been on holiday. In June a mother and three children were reported from a hospital in Cirencester with diphtheria, residents in Bibury district, and a companion and neighbour also took the disease. In July a mother and a young child were removed to hospital from Sherborne district. It seemed likely that other children of this family who attended school, also had had attacks, but swabs were negative. Two cases were notified from Ablington, and owing to the possibility of carriers in the school, a number of swabs were taken, and one or two carriers were found and kept from school. Two deaths occurred in the year, one the mother from Sherborne, and the other a child from Ablington. The latter was, owing to an oversight, not immunised at the time that practically all the school was done. Two cases of cerebro-spinal fever were reported, one a soldier in billets was treated at the de Lancey hospital. The other, an infant,

living in the local council houses, was first sent to the general hospital with meningitis, supposed to be due to a fall on its head. This turned out to be cerebro-spinal fever and was removed to de Lancy, where possibly by the delay in specific treatment, the child eventually died. Two cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified, both living in Chedworth. Both patients made a good recovery. Six cases of pneumonia occurred, all adults, and there were two deaths due to it. Four adults were reported with erysipelas. There were 59 cases of measles notified, including 37 males and 22 females. Of this total 11 were aged from 1-5 years, 40 at school age, and there were 8 adults infected. The number reported by the school teachers was 65 at school age, which showed that about 60% of the whole were reported by medical men. Following the very large epidemic in 1940, it was unlikely that there would be many cases. In Southrop there were 17, in Yanworth 13, in Coln St. Aldwyn 7 cases and in five other parishes 13 in all. There were no deaths. In 1940 there was only one case of whooping cough reported, whilst this year the number was 96, and included 49 males and 47 females. As there were 133 cases reported by the teachers, about 70% were attended by the family doctor. In Bibury there were 25 cases notified, in Sherborne 21 and 8 in Southrop. In other 9 parishes there was an average of three. Fifteen parishes, mostly small ones, had no cases at all. A limited outbreak of food poisoning, affecting four adults in one family, occurred in Ablington in May. All four had eaten sausages, bought the day before from a local butcher. The cases all had sickness and diarrhoea, and were rather ill for a couple of days. The premises of the butcher were found in good order.

OTHER INFECTIOUS CASES IN SCHOOLS

In addition to 65 cases of measles, and 133 of whooping cough, there were reported by the head teachers in their weekly returns to the county, Chicken Pox 89 cases, Mumps 36, Jaundice 4, 13 Ringworm, and no less than 49 of Scabies and 14 of Impetigo. Most of the Scabies cases, which are not notifiable under the Acts, occurred in the Northleach area. Leaflets of advice were distributed to the infected households, and copies of the circular issued by the Ministry dealing with treatment were given out to the local nurses. The medical authority are not in favour of this unpleasant complaint being made notifiable.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
20	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
25	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	0

Two new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, one a boy aged 9 years with disease of the neck glands, lived in East Leach and was being sent to Cheltenham for surgical treatment. The other case was a married woman, aged 30, an evacuee from Kent, with lung disease. A case removed from Aberdeen, who was convalescent after some years' treatment, was reported

also with lung affection. A girl aged ten years, a London evacuee, with tubercle of the peritoneum, was reported after treatment at Standish House. There were two deaths from tubercle, one a man aged 30, and the other a woman of 36 years. Both patients died in an isolation hospital, one in Stroud, the other in Gloucester. The treatment of advanced cases of this disease in hospital should be practised in regard to all patients, except those who are well isolated and nursed at home. The expense of this treatment is paid for by the County Council, who also provide clinics in most areas and treatment at Standish House for all types of cases, including the pre-tubercular children who are educated whilst in the Sanatorium. This disease is becoming less prevalent, although war often makes the disease more common. The average for last 6 years was 5 per annum for cases, and 3 for deaths, which would suggest that the death rate was 40%, but there are always a number of cases that are never reported, but found after death.

JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.
ISOLATION HOSPITAL EXPENDITURE
for the past five years.

SCARLET FEVER AND DIPHTHERIA.

1937	...	£194	13	0
1938	...	£69	16	0
1939	...	£297	5	3
1940	...	£63	0	0
1941	...	£348	19	0

There were treated at this hospital 7 cases of scarlet fever and 10 of diphtheria from this area. One soldier from the billets in the town with cerebro-spinal fever, and a child from the council houses also affected were removed to the de Lancey hospital. The cost of treatment during the year was rather higher, being £348 in all. Two diphtheria patients died at the Joint Hospital.

HEALTH SERVICES

No special changes occurred in the various health services. Those carried out by the County Council, including inspection and treatment of school children, tuberculosis, venereal diseases, orthopaedic treatment, and child welfare, were all well done, as usual. Shortness of staff rather interfered with school inspection, but this was fairly normal later on. The schools were visited by the Medical Officer of Health on a number of occasions, in connection with disease outbreaks, and also in regard to immunisation against diphtheria, a campaign being started by the medical staff of the county at the beginning of the year. An estimate was made of the number of children in the area. At ages under one year the total was about 500, and at school age 1300. The number immunised during the year was at ages under five 271 or 50%, and at 5-15 years 1096, or 84%. The total average was 74%. A large number of leaflets were distributed through the schools and welfare centres.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

The water supply in the district was fairly good, as the rainfall was up to the average. The demands on the town supply are much greater than normal owing to people billeted in the place. Four samples were examined in connection with the village of Hampnett, three were not good. The village is supplied by a spring, and is in private ownership. It comes out from below a kitchen garden which may possibly be a source of pollution. A sample was taken from a supply at Eastleach which is filtered rain water. This was a fairly good sample. There was a shortage of water at Sevenhampton owing to there not being enough to drive a ram. The owner of the ram was interviewed by owners of cottages who were supplied by this source, and it is hoped that arrangements will be made to improve it. There are no sewers in the

district, except one or two that received road washings and slop drainage. Most of the larger houses have either cesspools or sewage tanks on their premises. The cottages have either pail closets or privy vaults emptied by the tenants. No complaints were received from the Thames Conservancy Board of any stream pollution. Refuse collection was regularly carried out, and salvage produced $54\frac{3}{4}$ tons of paper, 2 tons 8 cwt. of bones, 3 tons of metal and 30 dozen bottles. This work increased the labour considerably.

INSPECTIONS

NUMBERS INSPECTED OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING :

	No. on Register.	No. Inspected.	Total No. of Inspections.
(a) Butchers' premises ...	6	—	5
(b) Bakehouses ...	11	11	43
(c) Dairies and Cowsheds ...	110	110	115

The 11 bakehouses on the register were inspected on 43 occasions. On the register there are 116 milk producers, which are well kept on the whole. The various premises were inspected 158 times in all. Only 3 statutory notices were served, and the nuisances were abated without further action.

One plan for a bakehouse was approved by the Council, and two temporary structures allowed. One private garage was refused. Building restrictions stopped the erection and any other buildings.

No licenses were given for camping sites. One camper on war work was asked to exchange his site, as it was too near the water supply of the town. Several war workers are living in caravans about the district, but no action has been taken. No action has been taken in regard to possible overcrowding, as

this seems inevitable with evacuees, and people at billets. Any bad case is dealt with by the inspector on its merits.

HOUSING

No houses were built, either by private enterprise or by the Council. Under the Housing Acts 30 houses were inspected, as against 21 in 1940, this included 120 visits. Of these, 6 only were placed on the register, 48 inspections being made in regard to them. No houses were condemned as unfit for habitation, but 6 were found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for habitation. One house was rendered fit, after informal action of the inspector. No houses were demolished as uninhabitable.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(a)	1	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects [under Public Health or Housing Acts]	...	...	...	30
	2	Number of inspections made	...	...	...	120
(b)	1	Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-section (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1937	...	...	...	6
	2	Number of inspections made	...	...	...	48
(c)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	Nil
(d)		Number of dwelling-houses [exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head] found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	6

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers	1
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